

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 05659 160906Z

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1220

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5659

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJECT: ECOSOC - 61ST SESSION - AGENDA ITEM 20

(IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION IN THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE)

1. IMF REP (JAN SEEGER) HAS ALERTED US TO THE FACT THAT THE IMF STANDBY OF 80 MILLION SDR'S TO SOUTH AFRICA WILL PROBABLY BE RAISED BY TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR SALIM IN THE COURSE OF HIS PRESENTATION ON THIS AGENDA ITEM. SEEGER HAS RECEIVED FROM THE IMF A CONTINGENCY STATEMENT WHICH EMPHASIZES THAT THE IMF'S ACTION WAS IN ACCORD WITH THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT AND THAT THE DECISION WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS. HOWEVER, SINCE THE IMF IS NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE DETAILS OF THE DELIBERATIONS BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, HE IS NOT ABLE TO SAY THAT THE DECISION WAS BY CONSENSUS.

2. SEEGER IS CONCERNED -- AND WE SHARE THIS CONCERN -- THAT THE SOVIETS WILL USE THIS DECISION TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IMF AND IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES OTHER G-77 MEMBERS WILL BE FORCED TO JOIN. GIVEN IMF REP'S INABILITY TO BE SPECIFIC ON THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, THIS DEBATE COULD EASILY DEVOLVE INTO AN ATTACK ON THE WEIGHTED VOTING SYSTEM OF THE IMF WITH THE IMPLICIT CHARGE THAT IT WAS THE US AND OTHER MAJOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHO IN FACT FORCED THE DECISIONS THROUGH THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

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3. THIS ITEM IS SCHEDULED TO COME UP DURING THE WEEK OF

JULY 19-23. (IT WAS DELAYED FOR A WEEK TO ACCOMMODATE
AMBASSADOR SALIM'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL
DEBATE.) MISSION REQUESTS CONTINGENCY INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW
TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE SHOULD WE HAVE TO ADDRESS IT. DALE

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